Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 18 Dec 2024 until 23:59 on Thursday 19 Dec 2024

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 17 Dec 2024 at 13:14

Confidence: Medium for the detail of low tracking east through the south of the United Kingdom later Wednesday. High for a showery, colder northwesterly flow for Thursday, then lowering from Friday for the transitional detail as fronts then troughs cross from the east.

Headline for Wednesday 18 Dec 2024: Early summit severe gales, perhaps storm force winds. Rain clearing early morning, before probably returning erratically from south from late afternoon, with snow across higher peaks.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 18 Dec 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Light snow	Light snow
Precipitation probability							
80%	80%	90%	60%	10%	10%	40%	40%

Forecast for Wednesday 18 Dec 2024

Weather: Overcast overnight and early morning with rain turning heavier at times. This clears as largely dry and occasionally bright conditions feed from the west around mid-morning. Cloud building from the south early afternoon with chance of rain erratically returning into the evening, this wintry across higher summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% becoming 70% from late morning, lowering 30-40% from early evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Good or very good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases extensive from 500m at first, lifting and breaking from mid-morning, before lowering erratically from the south later in the day

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Wednesday 18 Dec 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	59/73 S	56/69 SW	52/64 SW	43/55 W	37/48 W	28/36 W	20/25 W	18/23 NW	22/29 NW
600	46/61 S	44/59 SW	40/54 SW	37/51 W	32/44 W	23/32 W	16/23 W	12/18 NW	16/22 NW
300	15/45 S	15/44 S	16/42 SW	17/42 W	15/37 W	10/27 W	7/20 W	6/16 NW	8/20 NW
Valley	18/44 S	18/44 SW	20/44 SW	17/38 W	16/34 W	10/24 W	7/19 W	7/16 NW	8/19 NW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	7/0	7/-0	6/-0	4/-4	2/-5	1/-6	0/-6	-1/-7	-2/-9
600	8/2	8/2	8/2	6/-1	5/-2	4/-2	3/-2	2/-3	1/-5
300	10/6	9/6	9/6	8/4	7/3	6/3	5/2	4/2	3/-0
Valley	11/8	11/8	11/7	10/7	9/6	8/6	8/6	6/4	6/3
Freezing Level*	2300m	2200m	2200m	1500m	1100m	1000m	900m	800m	600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Very difficult conditions early morning, also possibly later in the day, particularly as severe wind chill increases.

Forecast for Thursday 19 Dec 2024

Weather: Opening with frequent showers, some heavy with the risk of hail and thunder in western areas of the park and a snow level 400-500m. Outbreaks easing through the morning to leave a largely dry afternoon with good spells of weak winter sunshine.

Maximum wind: Northwest 30-35mph with gusts reaching 50mph across more exposed ridges and summits

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 25% becoming 80% for the afternoon

Low cloud and visibility: Very good becoming moderate or poor in rain showers, very poor in snow showers and within cloud with bases quite extensive from 600m at first, lifting and breaking from mid-morning

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 1 Celsius increasing 6 Celsius for the afternoon
At 800m: Minus 1 Celsius
Freezing level: 600m

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 17 December 2024. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:00. Full report: The wet and windy weather continued across the National Park today although with some brighter spells. There is currently no snow or ice in the Lake District. Summit temperatures were just above freezing but the wind chill or feels like temperature was nearly minus seven degrees C. Full winter clothing including plenty of layers and a wind and waterproof shell plus hats and gloves are essential. Hypothermia is a very real risk in these conditions especially if you are unable to move for some reason. Other kit should include a headtorch, whistle, survival bag, mobile phone plus a couple of reliable and weatherproof means of navigation. Temperature: plus 2.4 C, Maximum wind speed 42.5 mph, Wind chill: minus 6.6 C, Average wind speed: 33.3 mph

Issued at: 1314 on Tue 17 Dec 2024

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